

Polk County

County Seat: Bolivar

Population: 33,070

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,511	1,321	21.2%	18.1%	↑	15.3%	57
Food insecurity for children ^a	1,180	1,510	16.1%	20.0%	↓	18.1%	67
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	137	138	6.8%	7.1%	↓	8.9%	29
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	13	7	1.8	0.9	↑	5.4	14
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	20	20	16.3	17.1	↓	15.9	50
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	25	10	3.4	1.3	↑	2.9	14
Education							
High school graduation	316	315	90.8%	93.5%	↑	92.1%	65
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	218	126	57.2%	38.7%	↓	41.6%	66
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	216	137	54.7%	39.9%	↓	42.1%	49
4th grade math (MAP)	203	191	56.1%	50.8%	↓	44.5%	27
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	238	257	59.9%	46.2%	↓	41.5%	19

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

Notes:

^aData based on 2019 and 2023.

^b"Preventable Hospitalizations for All Causes for Children Under 18" was discontinued as a MOPHIMS indicator in 2023.

^cData based on five-year time spans, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2020	32,031	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	40.3
	2023	33,070		2025	34.7
Child population under 18	2020	7,427	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	9.4%
	2024	7,540		2025	10.7%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	22.9%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.7
	2024	22.8%		2024	93.5
Child population under 6	2020	2,445	Family & Community		
	2024	2,390	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	45.9
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.5%		2020-2024	100.7
	2024	7.2%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	10.5%
Minority child population under 18	2020	564		2020-2024	12.7%
	2024	799	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	37.7
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	7.6%		2024	62.3
	2024	10.6%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	1.1%
Minority child population under 6	2020	141		2024	0.7%
	2024	260	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	3.5
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	5.8%		2024	1.9
	2024	10.9%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	21.6%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	3.0
	2020-2024	13.4%		2020-2024	3.1
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	63.2%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	17.1
	2020-2024	63.2%		2020-2024	36.3
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	8.6
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	18.8%		2020-2024	20.7
	2024	31.0%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	44.5
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	21.2%		2020-2024	101.2
	2024	17.5%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	75.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	26.0%		2020-2024	100.0%
	2020-2024	27.3%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	22.9
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	43.7%		2019-2023	14.7*
	2020-2024	34.2%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	86.5
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	31.5%		2019-2023	128.3
	2024	26.3%	Uninsured children	2019	8.6%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$54,298		2023	6.3%
	2020-2024	\$81,418	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	95.0%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	4.7%		2024	93.7%
	2023	3.1%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	8.0%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	1.7%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		